

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) today joined a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives to pass the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Reauthorization Act, H.R. 1700. This measure is designed to help local law enforcement agencies across the US hire an additional 50,000 police officers on the beat over the next six years, including a potential 238 additional officers in the 23rd District of Texas.

“Last weekend I rode along with officers from the Uvalde Police force and saw first-hand the challenges facing our local law enforcement - especially in border communities,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “I am proud to vote for the reauthorization of the COPS program because it is more vital than ever. These critical Federal funds will bring a possible \$13,475,138 in grants and 238 additional police officer hires to District 23. Our local law enforcement officers are our first responders on the border and the COPS program will go a long way to helping them serve their communities and protect the nation as a whole.”

The COPS Act authorizes hiring grants, technology grants, and community prosecutor grants to give local law enforcement agencies the tools they need to fight crime and help bring crime rates back down. Created under the Clinton Administration in 1994, from 1995 to 2005 the C.O.P.S. program helped local law enforcement agencies to hire 117,000 additional police officers across the country. In 2006, the Republican-led Congress completely eliminated the program. Prior to elimination, the Republican-led Congress sharply reduced the funding for COPS hiring grants - reducing funding from more than \$1 billion a year in the late 1990s to \$198 million in 2003 and \$10 million in 2005.

According to a study by the nonpartisan Governmental Accounting Office (GAO), between 1998 and 2000, the hiring grants were responsible for reducing crimes by about 200,000 to 225,000 crimes - one third of which were violent. The COPS reauthorization has been endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities.

District 23-Specific C.O.P.S. Program Statistics:

Since 1994 District 23 has benefits from the C.O.P.S. program with:

- \$44,168,507 in C.O.P.S. grants
- 557 additional police officers and/or sheriff deputies have been hired
- \$5,746,211 in technology grants
- 50 additional police officers and/or sheriff deputies have been hired
- With passage of the 2007 C.O.P.S. reauthorization, District 23 stands to benefit from:

- an additional \$13,475,138 in C.O.P.S. grants
- 238 additional police officer hires
- 21 more school resource officers
- an additional \$1,753,081 in technology grants